RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED EXAMINING GROUP 2132

PATENT

Customer No. 22,852

Application No.: 09/448,470

November 24, 1999

Attorney Docket No. 4329.2191-00

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, Applicants propose canceling claims 7, 11, and 14, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 remain pending.

In the outstanding Final Office Action dated March 30, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 7, 11, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,937,066 to *Gennaro et al.* The Examiner also indicated that claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 were allowed. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection under § 102(e). However, to advance the prosecution of this application, Applicant proposes canceling claims rejected claims 7, 11, and 14, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter.

Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 be entered by the Examiner, placing pending claims 9, 10, 12, 13, 15, and 16 in condition for allowance. Therefore, this Amendment should allow for immediate action by the Examiner.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE REQUESTED EXAMINING GROUP 2132**

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Finally, Applicants submit that the entry of the Amendment would place the

application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of the

pending claims.

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention is

neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against

this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, the

Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely

allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge

any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,

GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: August 2, 2004

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